



Student Success & Completion Committee

March 22, 2022

INvestEd's History:

- In 1980, established by the State of Indiana as a non-profit, public benefit corporation—501(c)(3)
- In 2013, **INvestEd's** statutory nonprofit duties were codified to:
 - Continue providing free “financial aid literacy and educational tools to students, their families, and Indiana colleges and universities with respect to responsibly financing the costs of higher education”
 - The corporation may “make direct loans to or for the benefit of an education loan borrower or to consolidate all or part of the borrower’s outstanding education loans into one (1) loan;”
- In 2016, rebranded from ISM to **INvestEd**
- In 2021, **INvestEd** partners both statewide & locally with...
 - Commission for Higher Education & Governor’s Workforce Cabinet
 - State Colleges/Universities & Independent Colleges/Universities
 - Indiana Student Financial Aid Association, School Counselors, nonprofits, etc.

INvestEd's Mission & Unique Role:

- ▶ Increase the educational attainment of Indiana, such as contributing to the Governor's 'Strategic Workforce Plan' and reaching the 2025 Goal:
 - That 60% of all working-age Hoosiers have a postsecondary credential or degree by 2025

- ▶ Raise awareness and improve understanding of financial aid and postsecondary planning to make higher education and training more accessible and affordable:
 - Provide all Hoosiers free financial aid literacy outreach, guidance, and resources to responsibly fund education with less (or no) debt
 - Complement local/regional entities (schools, nonprofits, businesses, etc.) with free expert assistance and resources

Outreach & Financial Aid Literacy

*Helping Hoosiers Fund
Postsecondary Education Wisely*



➤ **Event Types**

- ◆ Planning
- ◆ Paying
- ◆ Finalizing

➤ **Help Beyond Events**

- ◆ Individualized Help
- ◆ Resources for Schools/Counselors

➤ **Collaboration Partners**

Starting point

- What has the host asked us to do?
- Who is the audience?
- What are we trying to accomplish?
- Reinforce with families:
 - ◆ We will help anytime, anywhere and options to contact us
 - ◆ Next steps and resources

Points of emphasis:

- How can we help students continue their education after high school
- Let them know there is a FREE expert resource to help them throughout the process

Early Awareness Event – Scope

- Get families informed & energized about planning ahead no matter where they are in the process
 - ◆ Junior high or early high school aged students (Ideally)

- Goals for event
 - ◆ Find the right fit (career, program, college, etc.) & how this impacts completion, costs, debt, etc.
 - ◆ Maximize FREE money
 - ◆ Minimize student loan debt
 - ◆ Make clear **INvestEd** is always available to help

Early Awareness Event - Topics

- Importance of continuing education after high school
- Benefits of career interest inventory
 - ◆ Identify skills and match with potential careers
- Know educational requirements & potential income for career
- Find the right college or program that fits
 - ◆ Academically
 - ◆ Socially
 - ◆ Financially

Early Awareness Event - Topics (cont'd)

- Overview of financial aid options
 - ◆ FREE money (grants & scholarships)
 - ◆ Self-help money (student employment & loans)
- Saving for college (i.e. 529 plans)
- Reducing college costs & time (i.e. AP & dual credit)
- Quick overview of FAFSA
- Benefit of Net Price Calculators
 - ◆ Project costs & possible financial aid
- Social media interaction impacts:
 - ◆ College/program admission decisions
 - ◆ Scholarship decisions

Financial Aid Night - Scope

- Geared toward high school seniors to establish a detailed plan to pay for college
 - ◆ Seeing increased number of families of juniors or younger
- Discuss deadlines and important steps for a solid college funding plan
- Demystify the FAFSA process & documents needed
- Highlight financial aid timeline and details of offer letters
- Goals for event
 - ◆ Understand financial aid lingo & steps in the process
 - ◆ Importance of meeting deadlines
 - ◆ Emphasize benefit of applying early to maximize FREE money
 - ◆ Make clear **INvestEd** is always available to help

Financial Aid Night - Topics

- Define financial aid & clarify it is typically a balance of gift & self-help options
- Review financial aid programs
 - ◆ Identify grant programs & importance of completing credits each year
 - ◆ Reinforce importance of applying for scholarships & provide tips
 - ◆ Explain benefits of student employment
 - ◆ Provide overview of student loan options
- Highlight key terms & why they are important
 - ◆ FAFSA – FREE form so don't pay for it
 - ◆ EFC - Expected Family Contribution (Student Aid Index)
 - ◆ Difference of sticker price vs net price

Financial Aid Night - Topics (cont'd)

- How to create an FSA ID (username & password)
- Cover key sections of the FAFSA to help families avoid common errors that delay processing
 - ◆ Clarify when students are dependent vs. independent
 - ◆ Identify who should be listed as a parent on the form
 - ◆ Importance of the IRS data retrieval process for tax information
 - ◆ Outline what assets must be included
- Explain next steps & what to expect
 - ◆ Cover FAFSA confirmation page & calculated EFC
 - ◆ How to address special circumstances that arise
 - ◆ Walk through a sample financial aid offer

FAFSA Completion Event - Scope

- School or organization brings us in as experts to help students with their financial aid application
- We work with families in a computer lab throughout a specified time frame
- Goals of event
 - ◆ Student completes their FAFSA with better accuracy & confidence
 - ◆ If unable to complete, student knows what is needed to finish & next steps
 - ◆ Everyone in attendance knows our contact information & that we're always available to help

FAFSA Follow Up Event - Scope

- Help Hoosier students finalize their plan to pay for college
- Provide tools to help families compare financial aid offers for more informed decisions
- Understand student loan options & impact of borrowing
- Goals of event
 - ◆ Family knows steps to take after filing their FAFSA
 - ◆ Clear understanding of what free money has been offered versus employment & loans
 - ◆ Student can compare financial aid offers & identify the bottom line
 - ◆ Entire cost of education for the program is considered not simply 1 year

FAFSA Follow Up Event - Topics (cont'd)

- Utilize tools to help family compare financial aid offers side-by-side
 - ◆ Clearly identify grants & scholarships
 - ◆ Determine if student employment is offered
 - ◆ Know details of student and/or parent loans listed
- Emphasize impact of amount borrowed not just for first year, but for full program
- Be clear on next steps in the process
 - ◆ Take action on what is needed to secure the money offered
 - ◆ Know which items are renewable & what is that criteria
 - ◆ Secure spot for housing, registration, orientation, etc.

In A Perfect World:

- Families would be invested in the process:
 - ◆ Start early & save for college (529 plans, etc.)
 - ◆ Complete every step in the early awareness presentation & follow our checklists
 - ◆ Not miss deadlines
 - ◆ Graduate on-time or complete a certificate program with minimal student loan debt

INvestEd Will Help Hoosier Families:

- Maximize FREE money & minimize student loan debt
- Not miss deadlines
- Be better positioned for completion & future success

770
events in
2021

Over
27,000
Attendees

FREE Informational Materials

- Annually-updated 'Planning Guide'
- FAQs & thematic one-pagers
- Pre-event FAFSA checklists
- Total cost of attendance comparison tools



A FREE Resource for all Hoosiers!

Making Higher Education Possible for Hoosier Families

2020-2021 Edition

FAFSA Checklist

Create your FSA ID and start your FAFSA!

Create student & parent Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) at StudentAid.gov/FSaid

Student's FSA ID	Parent's FSA ID
Username: _____	Username: _____
Password: _____	Password: _____
Email: _____	Email: _____
Mobile Phone: _____	Mobile Phone: _____
Challenge Question Answers:	Challenge Question Answers:
1. _____ 2. _____	1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____	3. _____ 4. _____

File your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.gov

Helpful information when filing the FAFSA:

- Date of Birth
- Social Security Number/Alien Registration Number
- Tax return
- W2's
- Current bank statement
- Investment records (non-retirement)
- Real Estate/Rental Property (excluding the one you live in)
- Federal work study earnings
- Money received or paid on your behalf
- Child support paid or received
- Veterans non-education benefits

APR 15

FAFSA deadline for State of Indiana grants

Contact INvestEd with any questions!
 Email: Outreach@INvestEdIndiana.org
 Phone: 317-715-9007
INvestEdIndiana.org

INvested College Cost Comparison Worksheet

Want help comparing award letters from colleges & universities?
 Contact us at Outreach@INvestEdIndiana.org

Enter the costs and financial aid awards provided by the various colleges you are considering to better compare your FREE money versus potential debt to attend each school.

	School Name: 1.	2.	3.
Tuition & Fees			
Room & Board			
Books & Supplies			
Transportation			
Personal Living Expenses			
Cost of Attendance	Sum of Costs Above	Sum of Costs Above	Sum of Costs Above
Federal Grants			
State Grants			
Institutional Scholarships & Grants			
Other Scholarships			
Total Grants/Scholarships	Sum of Grants/Scholarships	Sum of Grants/Scholarships	Sum of Grants/Scholarships
Net Price*	Costs - Grants/Scholarships	Costs - Grants/Scholarships	Costs - Grants/Scholarships
Work Study**			
Direct Loan - Subsidized			
Direct Loan - Unsubsidized			
Perkins Loan			
PLUS Loan (Parent)			
Private/Alternative Loan			
Total Debt	Sum of Loans	Sum of Loans	Sum of Loans
BALANCE	Net Price Work Study-Total Debt	Net Price Work Study-Total Debt	Net Price Work Study-Total Debt

* Costs left after FREE money and covered via out of pocket, work study earnings, or various loan options.
 ** Work study awards are not guaranteed and are simply estimates of what a student could potentially earn. Students must find a job and work the hours required to earn the estimated amount.

If you haven't received your award letters yet or are simply wanting to estimate potential aid in planning toward college in the future then access the school's net price calculator and compare the results.
INvestEdIndiana.org/itinerary/compare

Spanish-Language Outreach

➤ Collaborations & Joint Presentations

- Commission for Higher Education
- Indiana Latino Institute
- TuFuturo Latino (Columbus)

➤ Materials in Spanish

FAFSA Recorded Live
TuFuturo Latino

Una mirada rápida del proceso de la asistencia financiera

Presentado Por:
INvestEd | INDIANA COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

3:58 / 1:10:18

LA LISTA DE VERIFICACIÓN DE LA SOLICITUD FAFSA

¡Cree su credencial FSA ID y empiece la solicitud FAFSA!

Cree una credencial FSA ID para el estudiante y otra para uno de los padres en el sitio web: fsaid.ed.gov

La credencial FSA ID del Estudiante

El nombre del usuario: _____

La contraseña: _____

El correo electrónico: _____

El número de teléfono: _____

Las repuestas para las preguntas de seguridad:

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

La credencial FSA ID del Padre o de la Madre

El nombre del usuario: _____

La contraseña: _____

El correo electrónico: _____

El número de teléfono: _____

Las repuestas para las preguntas de seguridad:

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

Llene el formulario Solicitud Gratuita de Ayuda Federal para Estudiantes (FAFSA) en el sitio web: fafsa.gov

La información útil para llenar la solicitud FAFSA:

- La fecha del nacimiento
- El número de seguro social/el número de registro de extranjeros
- Las declaraciones de impuestos federales
- El formulario IRS W-2
- Los registros de ingresos no tributables, por ejemplo, manutención para menores, ingresos por intereses, y la asistencia no educativa para veteranos
- La información sobre dinero en efectivo; saldos de cuentas corrientes y de ahorros; inversiones, incluidas las acciones, los bonos y los inmuebles (a excepción del domicilio habitual), y activos de negocios y fincas agrícolas suyos de sus padres
- Los ingresos de los programas federales de trabajo y estudio
- El dinero pagado o recibido de parte de usted

La fecha límite para las subvenciones del estado de Indiana

¡Contacte a INvestEd con algunas preguntas!
El correo electrónico: Outreach@INvestEdIndiana.org
El número de teléfono: 317-715-9007
El sitio web: INvestEdIndiana.org



ISFAA Partnerships & Events

- **ISFAA Counselor Workshops**
 - *13 events with 600+ attendees*
- **College Goal Sunday (Co-Chair)**
 - 2021-2022 (Fall & Spring):
 - *Co-organized 41 sites over 2 days*

INvestEd reached

600+

counselors through
workshops & training
conferences



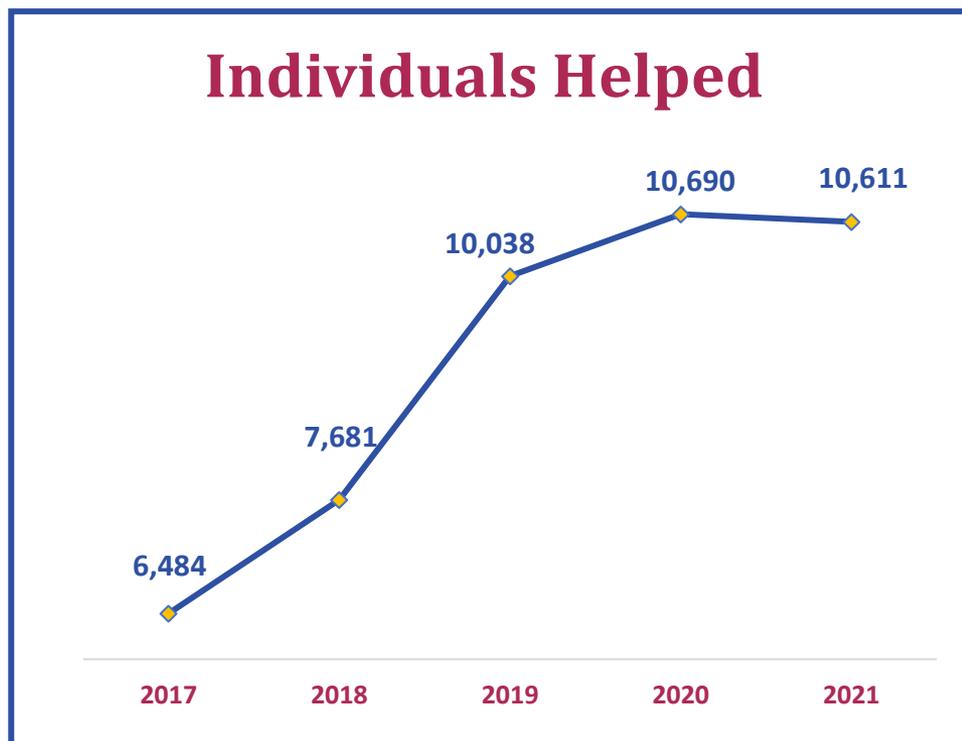
Help for Hoosiers Goes Beyond Events

Families Can Connect With Us Anytime



FREE College Planning Help

- When, where & how a family prefers
- In person, email, phone, live chat



FREE Help for Indiana Schools

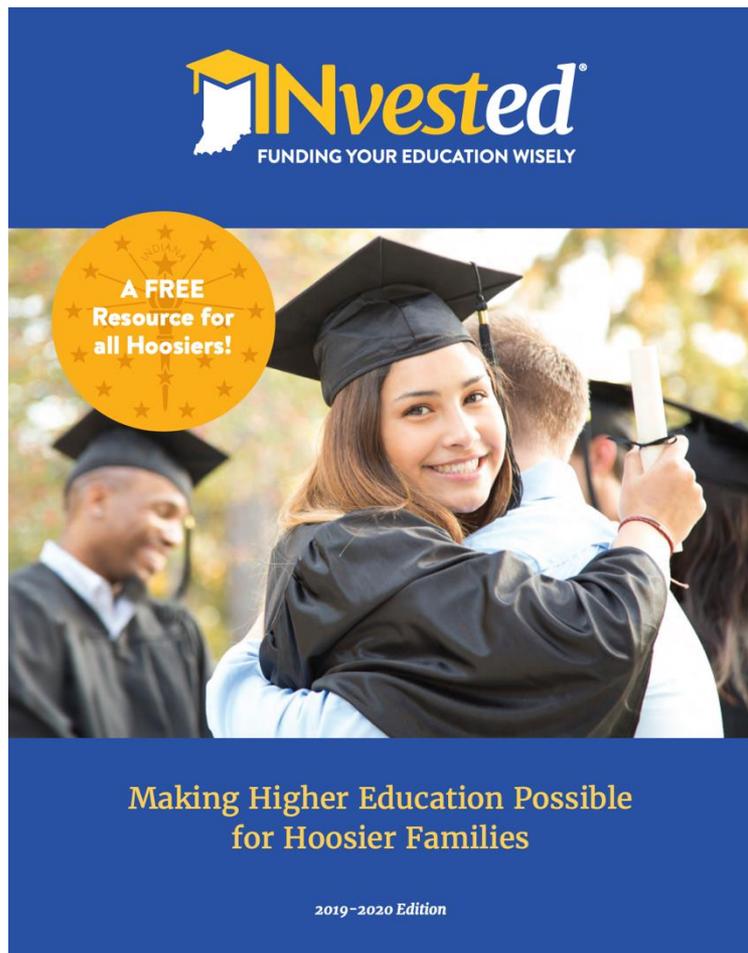
- Answer counselor questions on challenging financial aid situations
- College Planning Guide & one-page resources to assist families
- Provide contact info for families to connect with us anytime

A blue silhouette of the state of Indiana, serving as a background for the statistics text.

INvestEd
conducted
events at

220

**Indiana High
Schools in 2021**



FREE Resource

- Distributed by Indiana high schools
- Provided at events

Guide School Distribution

156

**Indiana High Schools
for 2021**

Over 29,000 guides

INvestEd contact information throughout the guide to help Hoosiers stay connected

Financial Aid Literacy Feedback

Responses from Hoosiers



Not only is INvestEd key to our secondary programming but also invaluable to the services they provide scholars & their families. The INvestEd financial literacy component has been particularly helpful in educating families, as they strive to prepare their scholars in attending college. It's clear INvestEd has considerable knowledge & a passion for helping Hoosiers understand financial aid.

Wendy Skibinski - Director of College & Career Readiness MSD of Wayne Township (Ben Davis)

INvestEd has changed the way our counseling office works. As counselors, we now have more time to counsel students and to utilize INvestEd's resources as needed. It has lifted a weight off our shoulders in terms of being the "experts" on financial aid and our parents are highly satisfied.

Danielle Adams - Director of Guidance Services Hobart High School

The tools and staff INvestEd provides Columbia City High School is vital to our students and families. They provide assistance through every step of the college planning process, from the benefits of an education to financial planning. The staff is wonderful, approachable, and eager to help our families. CCHS is blessed to have them in our community throughout the school year. If we lost the services they provide, we would not be able to offer our families the assistance they need.

Sarah Maynard - Director of School Counseling Columbia City High School

INvestEd Statewide Survey

- ▶ 88% of Hoosiers surveyed value education beyond high school
- ▶ 76% of those surveyed are concerned about student loan debt levels
- ▶ 89% of survey respondents want access to FREE & transparent financial aid literacy resources

INvestEd Post-Event Surveys

(Current academic year results - over 1,000 responses)

- ▶ Over 99% found the event helpful in answering their questions
- ▶ Over 98% would recommend **INvestEd** to someone else that needs help
- ▶ Over 96% are likely to contact **INvestEd** if they need further help

*In collaboration with the
Governor's Workforce Cabinet:*

Workforce Ready Grant

&

YourNextStepIN.org



Launched May 7, 2020: 'State Partners with INvestEd'



INvestEdindiana.org/workforce-ready-grant/

- Free help in applying for the WRG, filing the FAFSA, etc.
 - Outreach@INvestEdIndiana.org or (317) 715-9007

Call (317) 715-9007 to speak with one of INvestEd's trusted experts and get started on the Workforce Ready Grant.



Launched June 5, 2020: 'Rapid Recovery for a Better Future'

- One-Stop Portal: YourNextStepIN.org
 - Education, Employment & Other Supports
 - 'Expert Help' Sub-Page & Pop-Out Helpline Window:



College Planning & FAFSA Help

Want to begin your education journey, but don't know where to start? INvestEd's Indiana-based experts can help with questions ranging from what type of education to pursue to how to pay for it.

Call **317-715-9007** to get personalized support.

Learn more 

How to Reach Us

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